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Slide # 3: West Nile Virus surveillance has started for the year. West Nile virus is the most common mosquito borne disease in Kansas and the United States. The *Culex* species are the primary vector for West Nile virus in Kansas and the United States.

We have expanded mosquito surveillance this year from 1 to 3 counties (Reno, Sedgwick, and Shawnee). In addition, we collect mosquito surveillance data from 4 additional partners throughout the state. We are using this data to develop weekly risk levels from mid-May through mid-October, and they serve as a proxy for West Nile virus transmission risk for the entire state.

WNV risk levels have been developed for Kansas based on the following criteria:

- Presence of *Culex* spp. of mosquitoes
- Human cases of WNV reported to KDHE
- Increase in the number of *Culex* spp. mosquitoes
- Historical data indicators for the weeks of increased WNV human cases.

The current WNV risk levels have the western and central parts of the state at high levels, and the eastern part of the state at a moderate risk level.

West Nile Virus Risk Levels:

- Minimal – The mosquito species that carries WNV has not been detected. This does not mean the risk is zero.
- Low – The mosquito species that carries WNV has been detected. There is a low probability of being bitten by an infected mosquito.
- Moderate – At least one human cases of WNV has been reported to KDHE. There is a moderate probability of being bitten by an infected mosquito.
- High – High numbers of WNV positive mosquitoes have been detected. There is an increased and high probability of being bitten by an infected mosquito.

These maps are updated weekly and are available at

[http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/arboviral\\_disease.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/arboviral_disease.htm)

Slide #4: Highlights this Week (week ending June 23<sup>rd</sup>):

- Weekly mosquito surveillance has begun in Reno, Sedgwick, and Shawnee counties. Bi-weekly mosquito surveillance has begun in Johnson County.
- The West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquitoes have been found in Shawnee County.
- Three WNV human case investigation is in progress.
- One case of WNV in humans has been confirmed in Barton County.

Slide #5: Now for an update on mumps.

As of June 24, 2017, 158 cases have been reported. Breakdown by county is below. We currently have only one outbreak in Wyandotte County.

Slide #6: This map is similar to last month with Marshall, Johnson, Riley, Douglas and Crawford counties have reported the greatest number of cases

Slide #7: The majority of cases statewide are male, the median age has been 22 years old, and the majority of cases have been vaccinated.

Slide #8: The number of cases continues to decline, with just a small uptick this month. The numbers that I just presented will be updated on the KDHE website, but that will likely be the last update since most of the outbreaks have ended.

Slide #9: KDHE and the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) have partnered to launch a new food safety website. [www.FoodSafetyKansas.org](http://www.FoodSafetyKansas.org) can be used to submit food-related illness complaints regarding restaurants, events or food items purchased at a grocery or convenience store. It can also be used to submit complaints about food establishments that did not cause an illness, such as observed problems with pests or lack of employee handwashing.

KDA handles complaints that do not involve illness, and performs inspections of all restaurants for which a complaint was submitted. KDHE processes illness complaints and begins an outbreak investigation if the complaint involves multiple people from multiple households, and those people have nothing else in common that could have caused their illnesses.

The goal of [www.FoodSafetyKansas.org](http://www.FoodSafetyKansas.org) is to improve accessibility and reduce the number of anonymous complaints. Anonymous complaints hurt KDHE's ability to start an investigation and confirm an outbreak.

KDHE typically investigates 10 to 30 food-related outbreaks each year. Most foodborne disease outbreaks reported in Kansas are caused by norovirus. Outbreaks caused by Campylobacter, Salmonella, Shiga toxin-producing E. coli, Listeria, and Clostridium perfringens have also been seen in recent years.

Slide #10: Animal rabies data is now available through the Kansas Environmental Public Health Tracking program website. You can pull up a map of animal specimens submitted for rabies testing and the outcomes by county. The plan is to update this map weekly during the rabies season, which is roughly from March to August. The maps will be updated monthly in the off season.

Slide #11: We have a new training available through KS-TRAIN (course # 1071191) for local health departments conducting investigations of elevated blood lead children and adults. The course goes through the new Disease Investigation Guidelines but with more explanation.

New universal testing form coming from KHEL. The new form will allow the specimen submitter to mark blood capillary or blood venous for the sample type. Currently, the forms only allow you to mark blood which has made it a little difficult for blood lead surveillance purposes.

Exploring moving away from filter paper to capillary tubes. As most of you know, KDHE provides filter paper to local health departments and some Head Start programs free of charge to encourage blood lead screening. There is some room for error when submitting the filter paper tests though, for example, getting enough of the sample on the paper or the potential for contamination while the tests are drying. So we are exploring moving to the capillary tubes. This would still entail a finger stick, but the blood would be collected in the capillary tube instead of on the paper. We really want to hear feedback from the local health departments about what this change might mean to you. What we don't want to happen is for testing to plummet because we went with a new method.

The statewide blood lead report is delayed but coming.

Slide #12: And finally, we are in Harmful Algal Bloom season.

KDHE samples publicly accessible bodies of water for blue-green algae when the agency receives reports of potential algae blooms in Kansas lakes. Based on sampling results, KDHE reports on potentially harmful conditions.

For information on blue-green algae and reporting potential harmful algal blooms, please visit the KDHE HAB site.

You can get up to date information on public health watches and warnings that have been issued due to harmful algal blooms.

You can also encourage the public to report a bloom, or a human or animal illness potentially related to a harmful algal bloom, from this website. Reports of potential blooms are investigated and may lead to the water body being sampled, which ultimately leads to watches and warnings when warranted. Reports of human and animal illness are also investigated by KDHE epidemiology staff.

### **Michael McNulty** **Preparedness Program**

Slide #14

- 1) Reminder that the PHEP, HPP, and PHEP Ebola budget periods all end on June 30, 2017 and completed work plans and affidavits are due to KDHE Preparedness by July 15, 2017. If you have any questions please contact Catherine Byrd.
- 2) KDHE is still in search of an Exercise Coordinator if anyone is interested. Please contact me.
- 3) KDHE is again working with the Office of the State Fire Marshal to have hospitals voluntarily report fireworks injuries. An announcement went out on EMResource to make hospitals aware of the request and to remind them through the Independence Day holiday.

### **Cristi Cain** **Local Public Health Program**

If you have questions regarding Aid to Local, please contact Karen Kelley at 785-296-0425 or [karen.kelley@ks.gov](mailto:karen.kelley@ks.gov).

Register for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter regional meetings on KS-TRAIN (Course ID# 1071439).

### **Deb Nickels** **KS-TRAIN**

Slide #18

**Kansas TRAIN**

#### **KS-TRAIN 3.0 Platform Goes Live in September - The Countdown Begins**

The new TRAIN 3.0 platform will go live for Kansas learners Wednesday, September 13. The TRAIN 3.0 national site at [www.train.org](http://www.train.org) and CDC TRAIN at [www.train.org/cdctrain/](http://www.train.org/cdctrain/) went live on January 30, with MRC TRAIN and other affiliates coming on board each month in 2017.

To test the new look of the TRAIN 3.0 platform go to [www.train.org](http://www.train.org) and login with your user name and password. New enhancements to the TRAIN learning management system include: mobile-friendly access, allowing learners to use TRAIN on a variety of devices; modern design that is easy to

navigate; Simplified account creation fields; improved advanced course search; streamlined learning record management, including transcripts and certificates; increased support, including [video tutorials](#) and easy-to-understand documentation. There are new features still being moved to production, such as a list view to the calendar, updates to training plans and conferences. These changes will be available before Kansas goes live this fall. Kansas TRAIN questions can be directed to [kdhe.kstrain@ks.gov](mailto:kdhe.kstrain@ks.gov).

### Preparedness Training Information on KS-TRAIN:

- a. Please visit the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) training information on the [KS-TRAIN Calendar](#) or the [KDEM Training Calendar](#) for a full list of upcoming learning opportunities. **Upcoming training sites include: Olathe, Hutchinson, Andover, Saline County TBD.** Remember when you enroll in G300 and G400 courses, KDEM will be reviewing your TRAIN Transcript for listings of the Emergency Management Institute required Independent Study courses: 700, 100, 200 and 800. To have the Independent Study courses verified complete on your TRAIN Transcript, see the [FEMA IS Completion Instructions](#).
  - KDEM Trng: (G300) Intermediate Incident Command System Course for Expanding Incidents, **Course ID# 1067262**
  - KDEM Trng (G400) Advanced Incident Command System Course for Command General Staff, Complex Incidents, and MACS, **Course ID# 1067267**
- b. For assistance in posting your Preparedness Healthcare Coalition, Regional Meetings or Exercises, contact the KS-TRAIN staff at [kdhe.kstrain@ks.gov](mailto:kdhe.kstrain@ks.gov) or call 785-291-3457.

**Preparedness Regional Meetings** posted to KS-TRAIN so far for the next grant cycle are listed below. If you do not see a regional meeting for your area on the TRAIN calendar please contact your regional coordinator for the next meeting date.

- SCKS Health Care Coalition Meeting # 1069797 (7/19/2017, Wichita)
- SWKS Hospital Emergency Response Team HPP Healthcare Coalition, Course ID #1069819 (8/11/2017, Garden City)
- NEKS Health Care Coalition Meeting, Course ID #1071554 (8/1/2017, Topeka)
- NWKS Healthcare Coalition Meeting, Course ID #1071450 (8/23/2017, Hays)

### Public Health Meetings:

- South Central Kansas Coalition, Course ID# 1069916 (TBA)
- Northeast Corner Regional Initiative, Course ID# 1069919 (7/6/2017, Holton)
- West Central Public Health Initiative Course ID# 1069987 (7/19/2017, Oakley)
- Central Kansas Region, Course ID# 1070307 (7/11/2017, Lyons)
- South-Central Metro Region, Course ID# 1071451 (9/15/2017, Winfield)
- Region 15 and CRI, course ID# 1071476 (8/18/2017, Olathe)
- Lower 8 of SEK – Regional Public Health Meeting, Course ID# 1071552, (7/21/2017, Parsons)

### Slide #19: Online Course Announcements:

- a. **CASPER: A Rapid Needs Assessment Tool - WB2390**, Course ID# 1057666 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will provide a recommended rapid needs assessment framework, to enable states/locals to better respond to and recover from any disaster, whether man-made or natural. This course has continuing education credit for nurses, physicians, health educators, pharmacists and others.

b. **General IT Security Awareness Training (1070513)**, This 45 minute online course provides awareness on system security requirements and responsibilities required to protect IT systems and data. At the conclusion of this online training learners will be able to:

- Identify potential risks and vulnerabilities associated with information systems.
- Employ suggested guidelines to protect your organization against attacks on information systems.

c. **IS-120.a: An Introduction to Exercise**, Course ID# 1011646. IS 120.a introduces the basics of emergency management exercises. It also builds a foundation for subsequent exercise courses which provide the specifics of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) and the National Standard Exercise Curriculum (NSEC).

### Slide # 20

d. In order to be certified (or recertified) to ship laboratory materials you must complete **Packaging and Shipping Division 6.2 Materials: What the Laboratorian Should Know 2016**, Course ID# 1062513 on the hazardous materials regulations as well as some facility specific training. This on-line course uses a problem solving approach to provide training on infectious materials (Division 6.2 Materials) as specified in the Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations. The content includes some general security training as well as some guidance on facility specific training. Access to resource documents and a number of job aids will not only enhance your learning experience but also provide useful resources for your laboratory.

e. **KHEL: Preparing Clinical Specimens Related to Chemical or Biological Exposure Using Evidence Control Measures (1050287)**, is an intermediate-level 45 minute training overview of regulations and procedures associated with evidentiary control measures taken when shipping clinical specimens to Kansas Department of Health and Environmental Laboratories after a known or unknown chemical exposure even has occurred. This course offered to ensure all laboratory staff across Kansas receives the full training needed to fully support their responsibilities as sentinel laboratory staff members.

**IMPORTANT:** To participate in this training, learners must participate and pass a preliminary packaging and shipping class that covers Class 6.2 Infectious Substances, and Class 9 Miscellaneous Hazardous Materials, Dry Ice. The recommended prerequisite for this training course is: Packaging and Shipping Division 6.2 Materials: What the Laboratorian Should Know - 2015, course ID# 1058172, offered through the CDC and available on KS-TRAIN. If you have completed a preliminary packaging and shipping class as stated above through some other means than the CDC course please contact AJ Wolfe, 785-296-7006 for permission to complete the Evidence Control Measures course.

The July issue of Public Health Connections will be coming out soon, [http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public\\_health\\_connections.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public_health_connections.htm). If you are not on the Public Health Connections distribution list, please email [PHC@kdheks.gov](mailto:PHC@kdheks.gov) and request to be added to the distribution list serve.

Each month a TRAIN email goes out to regional coordinators and other identified training partners on up-coming **live** training that is scheduled for the following month. If you would like to receive this monthly email, please send your email address to [Debbie.Nickels@ks.gov](mailto:Debbie.Nickels@ks.gov).

### **KS-TRAIN:**

Login Information: [kdhe.helpdesk@ks.gov](mailto:kdhe.helpdesk@ks.gov)

KS-TRAIN general emails, [kdhe.kstrain@ks.gov](mailto:kdhe.kstrain@ks.gov)

Debbie Nickels, KS-TRAIN Administrator, [Debbie.Nickels@ks.gov](mailto:Debbie.Nickels@ks.gov)

**Ryan Lester**  
**Bureau of Health Promotion**

**Jennifer Vandavelde**  
**Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention**

Allison Alejos is our new VFC Program Manager.